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Bosnia-Herzegovina

Trade Policy Monitoring

New Animal and Animal Product Import Requirements

2004

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) recently adopted a decision on the requirements for the import and transit of live animals, animal products, veterinary medicines, and animal feed and waste. This decision gives the State Veterinary Office (SVO) responsibility over "prior import approvals". Entity ministries of agriculture are no longer involved in the import approval process. Six border crossings have been designated for the import and transfer of live animals and animal products.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) recently adopted a decision on the requirements for import and transit of live animals, animal products, veterinary medicines, and animal feed and waste. This decision gives the State Veterinary Office (SVO) responsibility over "prior import approvals" for these products (forms available from <http://www.vet.gov.ba/>). The entity¹ ministries of agriculture are no longer involved in import approval procedure. The SVO also sets health requirements for all animal origin products, which are generally in line with those of the Office of International Epizooties (OIE). The requirements can be obtained directly from the SVO or from the FAS Sarajevo office (see contact information below).

"Prior import approvals" are generally required for live animal, fresh, chilled and frozen meat, veterinary medicines, eggs for reproduction, semen and inseminated egg cell imports. To import animals for reproduction--a positive opinion from the relevant animal selection department regarding origin, production and reproductive value is required. Importers of semen should provide progeny test results. The cost of SVO approval is 350 KM (approx. \$215) per approval. The cost for diagnostic kits and materials is 120 KM (\$75). The maximum time for processing is 30 days from date of submission. Approvals are valid for 60 days (for veterinary drugs, appliances, and diagnostic kits and materials--the validation period is 120 days).

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MFTER) issues final import permits for animals for reproduction and semen, based on SVO prior approvals (for more information see report #BK 3001 that can be downloaded from [Attache Reports](#)). Documents that must be submitted to MFTER for the final import permit include:

1. Request (Form available from the Ministry, BiH Official Gazette 41/02)
2. Specification of commodities including HS numbers and quantities
3. Copy of pro-form invoice
4. Approval from the SVO
5. Fee/tax of 5 KM (\$3) for submission of the request and 15 KM (\$ 9) for processing of the request.

Requests are processed in 10 days maximum.

Other products, such as preserved meat and milk products, milk powder, ice-cream, cheese, butter, skin, wool, pet food, feed etc. require no import approval or import license if a shipment is accompanied by an international veterinary certificate.

Six border crossings have been designated for the import and transit of live animals and animal products. They include: Orasje, Gradiska, Izacic, Doljani (on the border with Croatia), Raca (on the border with Serbia) and the Sarajevo Airport.

All foreign exporting facilities have to register with the BiH State Veterinary Office on a first time basis (see report #BK 4006 that can be downloaded from [Attache Reports](#))

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of two entities, the Federation and the Republika Srpska, each in charge for its own agricultural sector. Yet, the state-level ministries and agencies are becoming responsible for the international trade.

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